

# AGENDA OF THE COULEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING

April 14, 2005

Bangor Town Hall

8:00 pm

## **2004 Accomplishments on Coulee Experimental Forest**

- **Sustainable Forestry**

Coulee Exp. Forest certified “sustainable” with 8 other State Forests

Renewed Forest Service lease for research...15 years

Continued work on Aspen–Birch harvest, advertised but no bidders...redo sale with additional volume, drop off hard to reach sites along ski trail.

- **Wildlife Habitat**

Constructed trail below Berg Prairie for fire crew to access with water & tools, also serves as fire-line, rather than burn through woods on lower slope from the field.

Opened up trail across ravine on east side; reshaped ditch crossing, installed bigger culvert, set a DNR gate at Russlan Coulee Rd. entrance, seeded & mowed once

- Access to timber stands
- Hunter walking trail

Planned a work day with RGS on a habitat improvement project.

- **Recreation**

Met with Girl Scouts to plan ski trail sign improvements for a long term project.

Regraded ski trail surface in several portions where it was sloped or bermed on edge.

- **Public Safety & Property Maintenance**

Re-graveled Forest Road in rough spots, re-graveled main parking lot

Replaced west side parking lot posts & cable and re-graveled surfaces. Removed old posts in the way of town snowplow and mower.

Continued re-signing gates with R&W barrier signs.

New metal siding on research shed, cleaned up junk around it for mowing & maintenance

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## **Work Plan \_ 2005**

- **Sustainable Forestry**

1. Aspen–Birch harvest...44 acres, 1000 cords

Purpose is to regenerate type on former pasture

2. Conifer Thinning harvest \_ 2<sup>nd</sup> of three thinnings needed

Purpose is to keep stands healthy and growing \_ trees ~ 30 yrs.

3. Identify timber stand improvement sites

Use timber harvest maps by year completed to find stands

4. Evaluate tree planting above erosion points

5. Forest inventory (recon) data update

CAR in certification, new software & GIS system

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## **Work Plan \_ 2005**

- **Wildlife Habitat**

1. Prescribed burn of prairie sites \_ maintain prairie vegetation
  - Berg Prairie burned earlier this spring (1/2 at a time)
  - Ridge Prairie burned in opposite years
2. Mow trails & field edges annually
  - Keep out invasive spp.
  - Provide hiking trails
  - Maintain ski trail
3. Sharecropping agreements \_ 4# on 103.4 acres cropland
  - Monitor cropping plans...8 acres of standing corn '05
  - Evaluate wildlife use of corn left standing
4. Evaluate aspen/birch clearcut sites if cut in 2005
  - Focus on young stand establishment to complete the shift from agricultural to forest soils

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## Work Plan \_ 2005

- **Recreation**

- Ski Trail

1. Erosion control project...3 sites where FS funneled water to measure flow are cutting into ski trail

- Will repair below trail, regrade surface & seed down in May.

2. Signs & kiosk project

- Girl Scout project for 2005 to clarify trail in confusing places, construct kiosk with compromise design (they want log cabin)!

3. Hazard tree check

- Twice / year needed

- Always completed one time in fall when trail is mowed

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## **Work Plan \_ 2005**

- **Public Safety & Property Maintenance**

1. Gate installation at quarry trail
2. Install barrier signs on gates

Continue this operation!

3. Maintain signs

ATV – Snowmobile – Target Shooting are prohibited

# **AGENDA OF THE COULEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

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## **Comments & Questions**

FS research on CEF...what was it about, still active?

Multiflora rose a problem on CEF? Control measures...?

Erosion on Russlan Coulee Rd. going over ridge at ski trail junction...this was presented as a statement of fact.

Can keep trails cleared of fallen more often for horse riders?

What is clearcutting and is that what has been done in the past of CEF?

Why can't I ride a snowmobile in CEF? How do the rules change?

Can I pick leftover corn in my sharecrop agreement if the animals didn't use it?

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## **Meeting Notes:**

Attendance: 6 members of public, 2 DNR staff

Public took great interest in binder of Coulee Forest historical photos and a styrofoam relief representation of the interior CEF with Forest Service plantings shown with colored pins.

One man asked why he couldn't ride his snowmobile on CEF. I responded that snowmobiles are not listed in Master Plan as an allowable use, nor is bicycle or ATV riding. He wondered how snowmobiles might get to be an allowable use; I said when the Master Plan is updated the department will ask for public input concerning allowable uses on the property and he can suggest it then.

Other questions centered around timber harvest practices on CEF, which I explained ...clearcutting, selective cutting and various types of regeneration practices.

One question about the FS research on CEF...what was it about, still active? I elaborated on past projects & said the lease allows FS to resume research.

One man asked about multiflora rose control, if CEF had it and how to get rid of it. I explained the control method of cutting with spot herbicide application and stated that CEF has limited staff opportunities to eradicate invasives like multiflora rose and autumn olive.

There was one comment about an erosion problem on abandoned Russlan Coulee Rd. I said I would look into it and see about repair.

The one sharecropper in attendance stated that animals and birds were not using the corn he left standing as part of his agreement and he wanted to pick the corn there now before the cropping season begins. Last time this happened the volunteer corn in his field was overwhelming and caused him problems with the next crop. I told him I would check with the Wildlife staff who monitor the sharecrop agreements and let him know about picking the corn this spring. Part of the '05 Work Plan is to evaluate where standing corn is designated for winter wildlife use to see if we can shift it to areas frequented more by wildlife.

All attendees were in agreement with the '05 Work Plan with only one suggestion for revisions or additions... one attendee hoped I could keep trails cleared of fallen trees more often to facilitate horseback riders' access on CEF.

**A list of attendees is available in the meeting folder.**

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## Stakeholder Invitation List...2005

32<sup>nd</sup> District State Senator  
Dan Kapanke  
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State Assembly Representative  
Michael D. Huebsch  
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James and Susan Stowers  
N2800 Filter Rd.  
Bangor, WI 54614

Todd Phillips and Annette Faller  
N2980 Antony Rd.  
Bangor, WI 54614

Bangor Town Chairman  
Ken Manke  
W1805 Knutson Rd.  
Bangor, WI 54614

Hamilton Town Chairman  
Richard Schomberg  
W3679 Cr C  
West Salem, WI 54669

Barre Town Chairman  
Ron Reed  
W4191 Cr O  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Dennis Wood  
N3379 Cr II  
Bangor, WI 54614

Frank Koltermann, Sr.  
W2940 Russlan Coulee Rd.  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Ruffed Grouse Society  
Mike Banashak  
W5740 Baker Rd.  
Holmen, WI 54636

LaCrosse Ski Club  
Kevin Schilling  
121 Lake St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

U. of Wisconsin-Madison  
Dept. of Forest Ecology & Mgmt.  
Prof. Raymond Guries, Chair  
Russell Laboratories  
1630 Linden Dr.  
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3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.  
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